

The OtherPress.

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Issue 14



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WHO WE ARE

The Other Press has been Douglas College's student newspaper since 1976. Since 1978 we have been an autonomous publication, independent of the student union. We are a registered society under the Society Act of British Columbia, governed by an eight-person board of directors appointed by and from our staff. Our head office is located in the New Westminster campus.

The Other Press is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly during the summer. We receive our funding from a student levy collected through tuition fees every

semester at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a syndicate of student newspapers that includes papers from all across Canada.

The Other Press reserves the right to choose what we will publish, and we will not publish material that is hateful, obscene, or condones or promotes illegal activities. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary. All images used are copyright to their respective owners.

The Other Press.

The Douglas College
student newspaper since 1978

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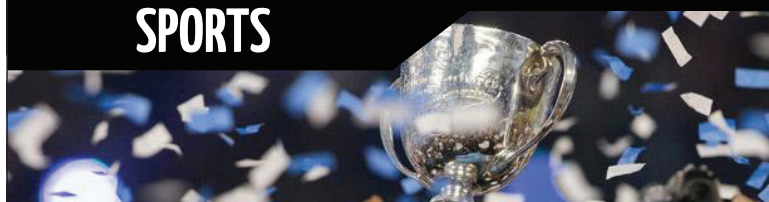
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Arrivederci

If there's one thing I hate more than *Two and a Half Men* (seriously, are they feeding the cast crazy juice from a large carafe or something?), it's saying goodbye. Unfortunately, as much as I implore those around me to "never ever leave me" on a near-daily basis, life keeps happening and we all have to move on sometimes. And so, I must touch on the end-of-semester abandonment-induced blues.

At a place like Douglas College, moving on with speedy efficiency seems to be most people's goal. Despite being recently named a dual sending and receiving institution by the British Columbia Council on Admissions and Transfer, many programs at Douglas still encourage people to use their time at the college only for beginning or upgrading their credentials—i.e. in and out within a few months or years.

So, while we may spend days in intense quarters with certain people over the course of a semester, commiserating over the same stressors that seem to be the most important thing ever, the time inevitably comes to an end and we move on. Usually, we tell each other that nothing will change, and that we'll stay just as close, but more often than not, the deep, passionate friendships that we forge as we strive towards common academic goals become little more than fond memories once we move on to the next class or school or job.

The Other Press faces a few sad goodbyes as our semester comes to a close—with our social wizard PR Manager, our so-hip-it-shouldn't-be-legal Life & Style Editor, and our artistically gifted Illustrator all moving on to new and bold ventures. Over the years, I've worked with these people closely on many projects, and while I'm thrilled that they're all following their dreams, it's bittersweet to imagine *The Other Press* without them.

To those that are leaving: you will be missed. To those that will be joining us next semester: I can't wait to meet you. And, to all the staff, contributors, and readers of *The Other Press*: thanks for the memories, and I'll see you next year.

SHARON MIKI



Want to get involved with The Other Press?

Come to our Annual General Meeting!

Saturday,
December 8, 2012
10:00 a.m. to noon
Room 1606,
New Westminster campus

AGM HIGHLIGHTS:

- We will discuss the current state and the future of The Other Press
- We will elect a new board of directors
- We will review our constitution

And more!



'The Invisible War' set to screen at Douglas

Students host event for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

By Sophie Isbister,
Staff Writer

This Thursday, December 6, at 2 p.m. at the New Westminster campus, the Douglas College Women's Centre and Co-op Radio's *The F Word* will be presenting a film screening in conjunction with 21st annual National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The event will include a moment of silence, a screening of the film *The Invisible War*, and a post-screening discussion with organizers from Women Against Violence Against Women and special guests.

The event is one of many that will be taking place nationwide to address violence against women. These events are held on December 6, the same date as the 1989 Montreal Massacre, where 14 female students were killed at École Polytechnique in Montreal, Quebec in a killing spree motivated by sexism.

Shila Avisia, student organizer of the Douglas College event and staff at the Women's Centre, told *The Other Press* that it's important to remind students that violence against women still exists to this day.

"By remembering this day and what happened



Kori Cioca and Rob McDonald in *The Invisible War*
Photo courtesy of Cinedigm/Docurama Films

in Montreal, hopefully we can be motivated to do something in order to help women who are facing abuse," Avisia adds.

The Invisible War, directed by Kirby Dick, is an award-winning investigative documentary about the epidemic of rape within the United States military. Katie Schofield, who works with Co-op Radio's *The F Word*, told *The Other Press* a bit about her motivations for choosing the film: "I have always had a personal interest in raising awareness about systemic violence against women." Schofield also feels it's important to change people's preconceived notions about how they relate to systems of power.

Schofield adds: "I hope [the film] will show people that the military and I would say these other systems too, are not always there for us, and

sometimes aim to hurt us, and need to be seriously looked at and reformed in a lot of ways."

Both Avisia and Schofield stress the importance of acknowledging those who have been affected by gender-based violence and abuse through events like this film screening. Schofield states, "It is hard to see past your own experiences of life, into the experiences of others, to recognize that many women are suffering simply because of their gender, and that it's just not acceptable."

Avisia urges students to attend the event, which has a limited seating capacity of 80, is by donation, and takes place in the lecture theatre located by the library, room 2203: "The discussion should be a great place to have conversations about the issue with fellow students and members of the community," she

says in regards to the post-screening informal discussion.

Confirmed speakers at the event include Douglas College's vice-president Blaine Jensen, who will welcome attendees, Dawn Black, current NDP MLA for New Westminster and former MP responsible for giving the day federal recognition, and Judy Darcy, a candidate for the NDP in New Westminster in the 2013 provincial election.

Schofield and Avisia are optimistic about the event and expect a lively turnout and discussion: "With the new Feminists for Gender Equality club, I think we will hear more conversations about feminism around campus," Avisia tells us.

Schofield adds, "[The screening] will be providing a much needed venue to discuss and raise awareness about this issue."

British Columbians support tax hike: study

Majority supports tax hikes on corporations and higher incomes

By Dylan Hackett,
News Editor

An opinion survey conducted earlier this year and released last Thursday shows that a majority of British Columbians support an increased income tax rate on incomes over \$100k, a higher corporate tax rate, and a slight tax height on their own incomes if certain favoured policy changes were made in Victoria. The majority was held amongst participants who identified as voters of all major BC political parties.

The survey conducted by Environics Research for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

collected online data from 1,023 British Columbians and nine group interviews across the province studied BC residents' beliefs on who should pay more taxes in society and the likelihood of accepting trade-offs in tax increases in return for

elimination of MSP premiums, and greater protections extended to BC forests. The study concluded that a majority of British Columbians supported these policy ideas.

"We've had this idea that tax increases

curve. Not only do most British Columbians want to see tax increases at the higher end of the income ladder, they are prepared to pitch in themselves—if they know the money will support concrete changes, and if we do tax policy in a transparent

surveyed said they don't pay enough income tax. The only major demographic variation on this belief was with age—younger British Columbians (those under the age of 45) were more willing to pay higher income tax.

The study also found that a majority of British Columbians underestimate the extent of income inequality. In BC, the top 20 per cent of earners make 44 per cent of income wealth. Those surveyed guessed the number to be 34 per cent.

The CCPA's funding for the survey was provided by individual donors and the BC Government & Service Employees' Union, BC Teachers' Federation, Canadian Federation of Students, and other major public sector unions.

Some of the most popular policy trade-offs highlighted in the 23-page report were expanded senior care, which 69 per cent of participants would pay more taxes to sustain, elimination of MSP premiums, and greater protections extended to BC forests.

policy implementation that better quality of life.

Some of the most popular policy trade-offs highlighted in the 23-page report were expanded senior care, which 69 per cent of participants would pay more taxes to sustain,

are a no-go zone in BC," said study leader Shannon Daub, Director of Communication with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' BC Office. "But public opinion is shifting, and if anything our political leaders are behind the

way."

Without being proposed the idea of higher taxes for preferred policies, 71 per cent of British Columbians held the belief that they currently pay too much income tax. Only three per cent of those

Coquitlam councillors' eyes on Victoria

Robinson and Reimer to run in neighbouring districts

By Anne Marie Abraham,
Contributor

As of late November, two Coquitlam city councillors are aiming for a legislative seat in the provincial election next spring. Both candidates are currently in their second term on council, having run for council at the same time in October of last year.

Councillor Selina Robinson is the NDP candidate looking to run in a seat currently held by fellow NDP incumbent of the Coquitlam-Maillardville

electoral district, Diane Thorne. Robinson made the announcement to run for provincial politics in September soon after Thorne announced that she would retire at the end of her term. On November 25, Robinson was acclaimed as the candidate for the 2013 provincial election.

"My job is to convince the people of Coquitlam-Maillardville that I can best represent them and their concerns and their needs in Victoria better than anyone else," Robinson told *The Now*.

Councillor Linda Reimer announced recently that she would seek the Liberal nomination in Port

Moody-Coquitlam, trusting that her chance of victory in the riding was worthwhile. Her decision was made after being approached last month by the BC Liberal party to put her name forward. She is set to run against NDP MLA, Joe Trasolini, the victor in the riding's April by-election and former Port Moody mayor.

Reimer told *The Tri-City News* that she thinks her chances against the incumbent MLA and NDP Critic for Housing, Construction and Business Investment are good.

Instead of explaining what her job entails upon her announcement,

Reimer shared her intended goals in the chance that she is elected and is the first of the two to do so. Reimer expressed her concern for the economy, suggesting that the Liberals will help in strengthening and stabilizing the economy. She also claims that she will prioritize education and health care.

Barrie Lynch, a former Coquitlam councillor is also a contender to run for MLA of Coquitlam-Burke Mountain under the NDP. Also seeking to run under for the NDP in the riding against BC Liberal incumbent Douglas Horne are Joe Keithley of punk group DOA,

Vincent Wu, a failed Coquitlam City Council candidate, and former Olympic wrestler Chris Wilson.

If either or both Reimer and Robinson win the provincial races in May 2013, Coquitlam residents would be looking at a by-election to fill the vacated council seats. The last by-election occurred in May 2010 and cost around \$125,000. Another by-election is expected to cost Coquitlam taxpayers roughly the same amount.



Weekly Geopolitical events

By **Keating Smith**,
Staff Writer

Africa: (Congo) In accordance with a deal brokered with Uganda, the Congolese rebel group M23 have agreed to pull out of strategic locations in the eastern region of the country, which they seized last week. Leaders in the neighbouring countries of the Democratic Republic of Congo fear that the rebellion has the potential to mount into a much larger and wider conflict. According to the UNHCR, more than 475,000 people have been ousted from the DRC by way of diasporas caused by conflicts and 75,000 have claimed refugee status in surrounding countries this year alone.

Americas: (Washington) Mexico's newly elected president Enrique Peña Nieto met with US President Barack Obama before press for the first time in the White House to discuss economic ties and immigration policies. Mexican immigrants living in the United States are reportedly accountable for sending \$22 billion back to Mexico every year from their source of income in the US and Nieto's policies on immigration between the two countries is speculated to be softer than that of his predecessor Felipe Calderón.



Asia- Central & South: (Afghanistan/Pakistan) Former British defense minister Lord John Gilbert created a huge amount of controversy in the media last week when he proposed a different way of preventing violence in the tribal territories between Pakistan and Afghanistan—by dropping a neutron bomb in the region. Gilbert was heard saying in the House of Commons that nothing more than a few goats live in the remote mountainous region.

Asia- Pacific: (Bangladesh) A fire that killed 112 garment workers last week in Bangladesh last week has American retail giant Walmart under fierce criticism for not investing financially into the maintenance and safety of the factory that went ablaze. Walmart claims that policing any type of labour or safety rights in the developing country can be a seeming less task due in part to corruption with local governments. Bangladesh is the world's second largest clothing exporter next to China, with textile workers on

minimum wage making less than \$38 a month.

Europe: (England) Canada's top banker, central bank governor Mark Carney has assumed the role of becoming the Bank of England's next governor, a role he will transition into next July. Carney had turned down the job twice after feeling he was unqualified for the position, but now feels the opportunity to take on the role is vital for the success of both countries and their interwoven economies.

Middle East: (Syria) More than 200 tons of monetary bank notes were transported via Syrian cargo plane from Russia to Syria this summer. US and European sanctions against the Syrian government have prohibited Syrian bank notes from being produced in Austria, with the Assad regime becoming desperate for cash in their fight against the country's rebel forces.

Macca delivers the goods

Paul McCartney performs in Vancouver

By **Jeff Allen**, Contributor

If Paul McCartney died back in the '60s (as *Abbey Road* would have us believe), his 70-year-old surrogate did one hell of a job filling in at BC Place on Sunday, November 25. McCartney proved that rock and roll is no longer a young man's game; not if the old masters do it as well as he did. For anybody who has ever been touched by McCartney's music, the experience was enough to put an ear-to-ear grin on your mug for the better part of the nearly three hour-long concert.

Anchored by his exceptionally tight four-piece band—the very same who have been serving Sir Paul well for the past decade—Macca delivered all the hits any fan could want. “Yesterday,” check. “Let it Be,” check.

“Helter Skelter,” check. A newish love ballad dedicated to his current wife, performed in sign language on a giant video screen by Natalie Portman and Johnny Depp, check and check.

This performance of the On the Run Tour was also impressive in its technical mastery. Two giant high-definition video screens bookended either side of the stage, providing even the worst seats with a magical mystery front row perspective. At one point, McCartney thanked all the technicians and road crew for their hard work, and rightly so. The sound was amazing for BC Place, as the venue's reputation for good acoustics at big shows has typically ranged from “piss poor” to “extremely shitty.” The sound quality for this show may have been some of the best I've experienced at any venue, period. The stellar lightshow culminated with the classic James Bond theme, “Live and Let Die,” which set off

enough explosives and pyrotechnics to satisfy even the most jaded concertgoer—it was a highlight amongst many highlights.

Ultimately the experience would not have been what it was if McCartney was musically off, or resembled his age in any manner. With nary a bum note all night (aside from those of the shrieking baby boomers in attendance), Paul truly shone. Entering the stage looking like, well, Paul McCartney, with his signature Höfner bass and rascally grin, Macca looked like he was having the time of his life, and continued to do so all night.

This wasn't just any show; it had the aura of a genuine event. For a few hours, we all got to inhabit the same space as a Beatle. We breathed the same air and sang along in time with his songs. The reverence for his career and talent was almost palpable.

Prior to the show, the video screens played a



Paul McCartney | Photo courtesy of Mark Van Manen/PNG, The Province

scrolling photo and video montage of McCartney's life and contemporaries while an on stage DJ remixed Beatles tracks, apparently for the benefit of the kids in the audience who needed a reminder of who they were about to see.

Some would argue the only missing element from the show was the absence of America's own rock royalty, Bruce Springsteen, whose rumoured appearance surely had some in the crowd waiting with

baited breath for a duet of Olympic-sized proportions. Alas, no Bruce, but I for one was glad. Call me crazy, but the show was perfect sans any ‘very special guests’.

If you weren't lucky enough to attend, what can I say, you missed out. I won't continue gushing, but definitely make a point of checking out Sir Paul McCartney the next time he returns to Vancouver... hey, it could happen!

HIRING: SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR



Do you love to spread the news? Are you a Facebook and Twitter fanatic? Are you a social media guru? If so, we need you!

The social media coordinator will be responsible for the online promotion of The Other Press—including Facebook and Twitter. The successful applicant must be able to work independently from home and be available Monday evenings.

Apply by December 9, 2012 to editor@theotherpress.ca

Pay: \$300/month



Oh my Glob, you guys!

The 'Adventure Time' game is finally here

By **Angela Espinoza**,
Arts Editor



Adventure Time's grabbed many of my friends and I, and we've since been to many distant lands

with Jake the Dog (John DiMaggio) and Finn the Human (Jeremy Shada). Now with the release of *Adventure Time: Hey Ice King! Why'd You Steal Our Garbage?* (November 20) for the Nintendo DS and 3DS, I can happily say the game is an everything burrito of awesome.

Ice King (Tom Kenny) is wreaking havoc in the land of Ooo, this time taking everybody's

garbage away—including Finn and Jake's. The boys head off to give Ice King a serious butt kicking, but they also help many of their friends and fellow citizens along the way.

Hey Ice King! is fairly simple, with Ooo separated into four main lands: the Grass Lands, the Candy Kingdom, Red Rock Pass, and the Ice Kingdom. While the

map isn't particularly extravagant, it's fun to see lots of characters, areas, and many, many items from the show be scattered about this colourful land.

Other strengths of its simplicity are that the leveling system, learning moves, and the story telling are all very well balanced and splendidly silly.

Another thing to

keep in mind is that this is very much a game designed for a slightly younger age group. But, like the show, there is never a point where things get lame for the older audience.

The game lasts an average of eight to 10 hours, and while I'm not crazy about the length, *Hey Ice King!* is nonetheless "totally tck-tck."

'Hitman: Absolution' can't even spare the cliché

By **Adam Tatelman**,
Contributor



I've never played a *Hitman* game before, but after hearing the franchise talked up by rabid fans, I expected a more original story than "chemically enhanced super-assassin Agent 47 goes rogue to protect girl with genetic quirk from government organization's illegal

science department."

Absolution offers a limp pastiche of bad spy films, full of uninspired stereotypical characters, nonsensical elements, countless plot holes, and assassins dressed like dominatrix nuns. Those problems would condemn any game if it weren't fun to play, and therein lies *Hitman's* absolution. The game offers endless options for infiltration: ever wanted to impersonate a judge and acquit a

criminal as part of your cover? Poison some drugs and watch your mark inhale his doom? Opportunities like those are always available to the observant; keep an eye out as you stalk your prey through the massive-yet-linear maps and you may discover a knack for devious improvisation.

Unfortunately, the game tracks your score, subtracting points whenever your cover is blown or you kill a

non-target. If you want to run and gun, prepare to be penalized with a point tally in the negative thousands. *Absolution* tries to force stealthy tactics into play, and then contradicts itself by offering up explosives and game mechanics blatantly copied from *Assassin's Creed* and *Splinter Cell: Conviction* that lean towards action-oriented gameplay. "Instinct" allows you to observe enemy placement through walls,

and "Point Shooting" stops time so you can mark your enemies and let 47 shoot them down for you. Being able to rig the game in this way only cheapens the experience.

Upon final judgment, great stealth gameplay offers the hackneyed story and plagiarized mechanics little salvation. Whether the game rises or falls depends on how forgiving you are.

The sarcastic truth behind Christmas

'The Santaland Diaries' review

By **Parker Thompson**,
Contributor



As the holiday season arrives, so does the expected cluster of holiday-related theatre. I'm usually a bit of a Scrooge towards Christmas plays, but I was pleasantly surprised by the November 28 Arts Club production of *The Santaland Diaries*.

This satirical narrative of the Christmas season is a holiday play like no other.

The Santaland Diaries was originally written by beloved author David Sedaris as a first-hand account of being a 33-year-old man working as a Christmas elf at a Macy's department store. This essay has been adapted into a one-man show currently starring Ryan Beil as Crumpet the elf. Throughout the play, we are presented with Crumpet's day-to-day criticism on life as a Macy's elf. While

Crumpet parodies the Americanized Christmas spirit, he also gives us a handful of moments that remind us exactly why we love the season.

Beil's comedic timing and ability to drive the story forward is remarkable. The entire audience, myself included, spent the majority of the show in laughter. Sedaris' humour is exceptionally witty and Beil delivers it perfectly. This is truly a unique approach to the Christmas spirit.

I was also impressed with the variety of

seamless set changes and clever directorial choices. The show had a very minimal set, which fit this diary entry style of show well. The props and effects used also managed to be interesting without distracting from the show.

If your family or friends are nagging you to do something festive over the holidays, take them to see *The Santaland Diaries*, which recently got an extended week of shows lasting until December 29!



Ryan Beil in *The Santaland Diaries*
Photo courtesy of Tim Matheson

Deck the theatres with boughs of movies!

Your ultimate December movie list

By **Angela Espinoza**,
Arts Editor

Oh hey, look at you, still reading the paper. You must be hanging around for exams. Know what comes after exams? Winter break! But what are you going to do with all of that spare time? Wait, I'll answer that for you, you're going to see movies! So many movies!

Better yet, most of the movies currently playing are fairly awesome; just awesome enough to be Oscar bait. You've got the obvious choices, like *The Master*, *Argo*, *Silver Linings Playbook*, *Lincoln*, *Looper*, and even though it's already on DVD, I'd be shocked if *The Avengers* didn't get some kind of sound award at the least. While this has arguably been one of the more spaced out nomination seasons in terms of having essentially a year-long window, of course, what would the business be if the best weren't saved for last?

First off, coming out on December 14 is something that needs no introduction, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*. You've got your J. R. R. (Tolkien), your P.J. (Peter Jackson), your BBC approved John Watson (Martin Freeman)—it's all the first of another epic trilogy, and it would be a sin against nature if it didn't appease everyone left and right—including them stuffy Oscar voters.

Because it's winter, we're also back to the release of films on Wednesdays as well, and the first Wednesday to



Photo courtesy of www.theedgeoftheframe.com

keep an eye out for is the 19, when the newest Kathryn Bigelow political thriller *Zero Dark Thirty* will hit theatres. Bigelow didn't waste anytime waiting around after Osama bin Laden was

the 21—and get the notepad out for this one—*This Is 40*, *The Impossible*, and *Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away* will all make their way into theatres. *This Is 40* is Judd Apatow's Seth Rogen

of whom have hit the dreaded big four-o. After that comes the inevitable tearjerker *The Impossible*, based on the true story of a Spanish family—portrayed as British in the film—

“While this has arguably been one of the more spaced out nomination seasons in terms of having essentially a yearlong window, of course, what would the business be if the best weren't saved for last?”

successfully found and killed, and apparently neither did writer Mark Boal, as this film tackles the subject; is it too soon? We'll just have to wait and see.

Two days later on

and Katherine Heigl-free “sort of sequel” to 2007's *Knocked Up*, focusing instead on the characters of Heigl's sister Debbie (Leslie Mann) and her husband Pete (Paul Rudd), in which both

vacationing in Thailand who gets separated during the horrific 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Then we have *Worlds Away*, performed by the acrobatic stars of *Cirque du Soleil*, in which they

tell the highly visual story of, well, I'm not entirely sure, but it's expected to be visually astounding and will be shown in 3D, so I'm sold.

Finally, forget the chestnuts, forget Jack Frost, hell forget Wednesday releases; on Tuesday, Christmas day two enormous and drastically different major releases will *finally* make their debuts. After months of waiting, Tarantino's latest *Django Unchained* and arguably the most major film adaptation of *Les Misérables* will be out for the world to see. *Django Unchained* stars Jamie Foxx as recently freed slave Django and beloved *Inglorious Basterds* “Jew-hunter” Christoph Waltz also playing hero, as the two pair up in the wild west against the sinister oil tycoon Calvin J. Candie (Leonardo DiCaprio). And in the sung-through *Les Mis* we have *The King's Speech* director Tom Hooper taking the reigns on what turns out is a multi-talented cast of Hugh Jackman (as Jean Valjean), Russell Crowe (as Inspector Javert), Anne Hathaway (as Fantine), and Amanda Seyfried (as Cosette). Both are nearly three hours long, so unfortunately you're going to very likely just pick one to see on Christmas day—but either way is a win as far as I'm concerned.

So there you are, possibly the most epic of epic lists of December movies that could have ever existed. So make your own list (and check it twice) this holiday season, because each of these films deserves to be seen at least once.

Life&Style.

Home brew how-to, part four

*Your bottle runneth over,
almost; and it's quite full*

By **Laurel Borrowman**,
Life & Style Editor

You've researched. You've invested. You've toiled, boiled, lifted, siphoned, measured, and been as diligent and patient as you could possibly be (I hope). Now, you're so close to the end of your journey, standing on one end of a glorious rainbow gazing longingly at the pot of gold at the other.

The bad news is that your journey is not over. The good news is that you live in reality, not a fictional dreamland. You aren't nine years old, you are at least 19, and that isn't a rainbow with a pot of gold at the end. It's better. It's a carboy filled with approximately 25 litres of beer, brewed by you. And there aren't dragons or orcs standing between you and sweet success; no, there's only one session with your siphon, a few dozen empty bottles, and a butt load of sanitization.

It's bottling time!

In our three previous weeks of home brew how-to, we've discussed buying the proper equipment and ingredients, turning those ingredients into wort, testing your patience while waiting for this wort to turn to beer, and more patience-testing while this beer clears. By now, almost two weeks have passed. This final stage, while relatively simple and spent mostly waiting, is important to take seriously. You've come this far, so there's



no need to botch the brew now. And again, in the wise words of brewmaster Emily, imparted on you in week one, if frat boys can do this, then you sure as fuck can.

What you have now is a carboy full of cleared beer. Over the past week that it sat, the sediment has mostly settled on the bottom, making a silty beer beach for you to gaze upon. While pleasant to look at, you don't want that crap in your beer, so the next step is to transfer the beer, undisturbed, back into the primary before you bottle it.

But first, you'll want to sanitize all your bottles. Remember those resealable bottles

you've been saving and collecting from your friends? Now is their time to shine. I can't stress the importance of ensuring that each bottle's inside, seal, and neck is totally sanitized and rinsed properly. Directions will come with your sanitizer, and you likely berated your local supplier's brewmaster with questions about this, so you're a pro now. Sanitize the bottles, and when they're sanitized, arrange them somewhere (likely your kitchen floor) where you can arrange them in a few neat rows, siphon-length from a countertop.

Now, you'll transfer the beer from the carboy back to the primary. Sanitize your siphon,

raise the carboy gently to a height (probably a countertop) above your sanitized primary, insert the siphon into the carboy just deep enough so that it's not resting on Beer Beach at the bottom, and suck until the beer starts to flow through.

This will take a few minutes. Consider doing a few sets of crunches and push-ups. Perhaps send a few texts to your parents and/or siblings. Update your Facebook status to remind the world of your brewing prowess. Be inundated with friend requests. Return to the task at hand.

Now that the beer is back in the primary and your sanitized bottles are arranged methodically,

from most sanitized to just as sanitized—because they are all equally sanitized—recruit your strong friend to help you carry the primary full of beer to the counter that is siphon-length from the arrangement of sanitized bottles. Set the primary down on the counter. Begin siphoning into the bottles.

At this stage, I highly recommend getting a firm grasp of how to operate the openy-closey part of your siphon (the valve that will stop the flow when pinched). You'll be filling each bottle almost to the top (in the Howe Sound bottles, we leave about four centimetres below the mouth), and you'll need to shut the siphon while you transfer it from one bottle to the next. If you don't shut it, you'll waste scads of precious beer whilst making a huge sticky mess.

While you are filling each bottle, have your friend follow behind with a clean damp cloth, sealing each bottle and wiping away the minimal spillage. When the bottles are all full (if you're using one litre bottles, it will probably be between 23 and 25), put them away somewhere that you can't see them, in a place that's the appropriate temperature for the brew.

Invent time travel to transport yourself two weeks into the future. Or, wait two weeks, birth the beer, salute your friend, and rejoice in your spoils. Now that, my co-brewers, is what I call a pot of gold.

Congratulations, and cheers, gang!



Survive the holidays with your phone by your side

By App Man,
Mobile App Aficionado

Welcome, welcome, welcome. App Man is here, to recommend YOU the best apps of the week. Each week, App Man will have an unexpected theme for you to discover and enjoy. And don't forget! If you have any cool apps to share, email App Man at appman@gmail.com.

Now that December is here, everyone is planning ahead for their holidays. Some are undecided on what gifts to get, some are thinking about what's going to be on their dinner plate, and some just hate the holiday season. Either way, why spend so much time on pleasing everybody else so their holidays can be satisfying and pleasant? Why not spend some time with your phone, where you can watch videos, play games, learn how to use chopsticks, and watch celebrities beat up citizens?

1. StumbleUpon – Free for iOS/Android



Bored? Like, so absolutely bored out of your freakin' mind that you'll pull your hair out and yell in everybody's face? Relax. With StumbleUpon, you'll get hooked (literally). The app loads up websites customized to your liking and there you will find—or *stumble upon*—unfamiliar websites. You can discover rare pictures, advice columns, stories, and useless facts while you are bored. And if you like to share useless facts with your friends, StumbleUpon has an

excellent social media sharing tool so you can look like you're the smart one.

2. The Cracked Reader – Free for Android/\$0.99 for iOS



No, it's not what you think. And no, App Man does not know where to get you some. Cracked, a website known for its humour and parodies, is now available for mobile devices. Just like its name, Cracked offers the same experience, only now more streamlined and easier to browse. If you're bored on the bus and you like to read, Cracked shall serve you well. Be warned: only a couple of articles are published each day, meaning you will have to wait the next day for more. Just like crack.

3. Zenonia 5 – Exclusive for Android (Free)



The ever popular melodramatic RPG is back! Hack and slash your way through cute monsters and rise to the top with four classes: mechanic, berserker, wizard, and paladin. You can customize and challenge your character in an online battle with your peers via the PVP system. With cute graphics, a stupid story, and an addictive hack-and-slash system, the Zenonia series returns, and this time, with something mellow to offer.

4. Smash Lights – Exclusive for Android (Free)



Do you have quick reflexes? Good. In Smash Lights, your goal is to—surprise—smash lights. The app offers common modes such as Time Trial to see if you are the fastest person in the world to smash lights. With

an easy UI and quick learning curve, Smash Lights is an addictive app. Just make sure you don't smash your phone screen.

5. Running Fred – Free for iOS/Android



Remember Fred from YouTube? The kid who always talked in a high pitch and tried to be funny, but he isn't? Well, Fred's back, and this time in an app where you prevent him from being killed. Running Fred is a 3D platform game where you

control Fred and protect him from harmful obstacles. Each hit can lead to a devastating wound, and enough hits can lead to death. Featuring dozens of dangerous traps, several game modes (Adventure, Challenge, Endless Survival), and special skills, Running Fred has much to offer for a free app!

Disclaimer: App Man is not responsible for failed classes, your exes, gaming addiction, or thumb muscle problems. With great apps, comes great responsibility.



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Feature.

Let's *toke* about it

Should BC legalize marijuana?

By **Sharon Miki**,
Editor in Chief

As much as we might like to think that our beautiful province is best known for its sumptuous landscapes and lush green terrain, the reality is that British Columbia is renowned for its

marijuana. Still, while “BC bud” may be coveted around the world, it is still an illegal substance in our province. With two US states voting last month to decriminalize the substance—and recent polls indicating that the majority of Canadians are in favour of legalization—would it be in the best interest of British Columbians to follow suit?

At first glance, the issue of legalization of pot might seem trivial: why should it matter how easy or difficult it is for stoners to acquire their drug of choice?

Hazy pop culture pot

representations like Cheech and Chong and Harold and Kumar may have made the issue seem frivolous to the masses. But, on the contrary, the British Columbia marijuana industry should matter to us all—the truth is that there are hundreds of millions of dollars being spent purchasing on the substance within the province, there is an organized drug trade built around the manufacture and distribution of the substance, and there are a myriad of government resources that are dedicated to the monitoring and policing its existence.

Money matters

Regardless of which side you take on the matter, the fact is that marijuana is big business in BC. A recent study published in the November issue of the *International Journal of Drug Policy* (IJDP) estimated that people in the province currently spend between \$443-million and \$564-million annually on pot—a startlingly

high amount, which researchers estimate could equate to about \$2.5 billion in government revenues (via factors like tax and licensing) over a five-year period.

To some, the sheer amount of possible tax revenue based on current provincial pot purchases may induce Scrooge McDuck-esque squeals of joy. However, the financial implications of legalization are not so cut and dry: the amount of money that British Columbians are currently spending on pot is based on the current system of pot selling—that is, illegal. With a government-regulated infrastructure, the price of pot could change drastically, as there would no longer be a mark up to account for the illicit nature of the substance, and as there would no longer be a financial need to compensate drug growers, transporters, and dealers for the criminal risk of procuring the substance to customers.

On the other hand, while these factors

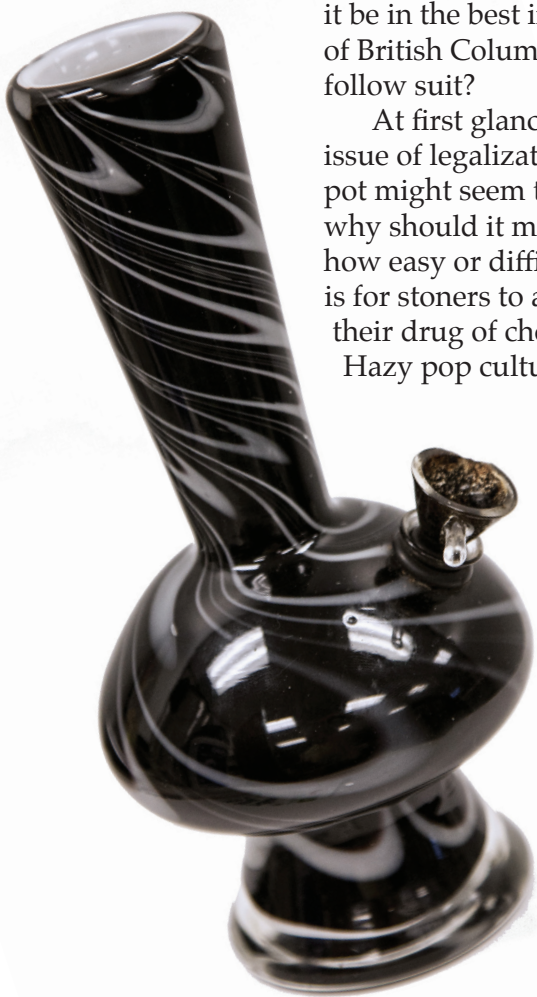
could drive down the retail price of marijuana, legalizing the substance may encourage more people who may have abstained from purchasing illegal substances invest in pot on a regular basis.

Still, even with possible fluctuations in price or demand, the IJDP research indicates that people in this province are spending money on marijuana—and taking this money away from dangerous and unregulated organized crime (which controls about 85% of the pot market in our province, according to policing agencies) and putting it into government programs certainly seems like a venture worth investigating.

So, if legalizing marijuana has the potential to bolster the economy of the province, why haven't we?

Big change has big consequences

While the headline numbers in the IJDP research may make legalization seem like a fiscal no-brainer, taking



this money from the hands of criminals could adversely affect more than just organized crime. Although pot activists decry the current use of public funds on the war on drugs—Vancouver-based advocate Jodie Emery spoke out against the cost of marijuana prohibition on CTV News last month, criticizing that the “tax payers are spending millions and millions of dollars every year on drug law enforcement, court costs, prison...”—it also seems that the money spent fighting pot use has created many jobs within the province. If marijuana were no longer illegal, it could have adverse economic repercussions as those employed to oppose marijuana could find themselves suddenly out of work. While one could argue that the tax revenue generated from legal sales could also generate new initiatives and sources of employment, there would undoubtedly be far-reaching consequences in a variety of sectors.

Legalizing marijuana would also have massive political consequences. Despite the majority of Canadians now supporting the idea of legalization (an Angus Reid poll released on November 29 attested to 57 per cent of Canadians and 60 per cent of British Columbians being in favour of legalizing marijuana), many politicians have publically expressed resolute views in opposition. Prime Minister Stephen Harper firmly stated last year that, “No, it will not happen under our government... We’re very concerned about the spread of drugs in the country and the damage it’s doing and

as you know we have legislation before the House [of Commons] to crack down.” A change in a viewpoint this strong would require a major shift in the politics of our highest leaders.

Could we handle it?

Taking money, crime and politics off the table, the question of whether or not to legalize marijuana in British Columbia often comes down to social issues. After a lifetime of prohibition of the substance, many members of the community perceive marijuana as illicit and inherently bad.

One problem is that many people view weed as a “gateway drug” that leads people to use harder substances like cocaine, heroin, or crystal meth. Though the amount of weed being purchased in this province might suggest that marijuana use is fairly commonplace in BC—whereas hard drug use is not—this long-standing and long-taught idea could be difficult to change for many citizens.

Another issue with legalizing weed is that, unlike with alcohol, it is difficult to measure if it is being used dangerously or irresponsibly. Marijuana can affect a user’s judgment, and there is no quick test that can be used to accurately analyze someone’s marijuana use (like a breathalyzer test would determine how much alcohol a driver has consumed) when driving. If legalized, this could pose an issue for public safety.

Snuffing out a solution

The decision to legalize marijuana in British Columbia is not clear-cut. What is clear, however, is

that the issue is nearing a breaking point—two out of three respondents in the Angus Reid poll feel that the “war on drugs” is a failure, and, while the majority is

slim, more people in this province feel that pot should be decriminalized than don’t. As more and more of our neighbours, like Washington, make changes to the status quo

position on pot, perhaps it would be worthwhile for more of the community to look beyond our long-engrained views and consider all sides to the story.



“

Regardless of which side you take on the matter, the fact is that marijuana is big business in BC.



Thrift vs. vintage shopping

The secrets behind finding those hidden gems in Vancouver

By Natalie "Buffy" Aybars, Contributor

Shopping second-hand is not only easy on your wallet, it is also a great way to express your individual style. Gone are the days when hand-me-downs were forced upon you by another, oppressing one's freedom for personal expression. Today's hand-me-downs are in fact sought after and create a sense of individuality by wearing something that is limited edition or even a one of a kind piece.

Let's distinguish the difference between thrift shopping and vintage shopping. Vintage shopping is an easier—yet potentially more expensive—way to finding pre-loved beauties. Vintage stores curate special second-hand finds for consumer convenience and so the price tags are at times unnecessarily marked up. Basically, you pay more for the convenience. Not everyone is willing to spend hours sifting through racks and racks of junk in order to find those hidden gems. So if you're okay with spending a little extra money (although not much), vintage stores can save you most of the effort. With time you will learn to know a good deal and a great find when you see one. On the other hand, thrift shopping is just that: being thrifty. Finding bargains for great items in places like Value Village, Goodwill, and other thrift stores can

be like a treasure hunt. Believe it or not, my best finds have come out of Value Village. Successful thrift shopping requires a keen eye, determination, and patience. Walking into a Value Village as a rookie can be overwhelming and discouraging, but the key is to have the right mind set.

Here are some tips for skilled thrifting:

1. Demographic. The nicer the area, the better the finds. Let's be honest: you're not going to have much luck finding anything of value at the Value Village on East Hastings—and even if you do, leave it for those in need. Check out thrift stores in the well-to-do areas and you'll be amazed at how what was another person's "trash" is just waiting to be claimed as your treasure.

2. No expectations are good expectations. Walk in with no expectations or prejudgements. I find that if I go thrifting for a specific item, I'll never find it, and I end up missing out on something special that I may have overlooked because I've been close-minded.

3. Materials. Stay clear of polyester, or other cheap looking materials. If I think it's going to make me itchy wearing it or if I'll look as cheap as the price tag, then I won't bother. After going a couple times you will learn to train your eye to look for materials, patterns, and colours that appeal to you. You don't have to pick out every single item to decide if you'll like it. Scan through the materials and if something pops out at you, pull it out and

take a closer look. Don't waste your time.

4. Always, always, ALWAYS try it on.

You never know how something will look until you put it on your body. You don't want to look frumpy, outdated, or tacky. If it's not your style or it's not something you can see in your wardrobe then put it back. If it's worth altering then make sure the price to alter it doesn't cost more than the clothing itself, and make sure you're actually going to do it. It may only be five dollars, but if it's just going to sit in your closet, what's the point?

5. Bring a buddy.

Especially if you're a newbie. It always helps having a second opinion, specifically from someone who knows your taste and style. Best friends will always be honest if they like something or not.

6. Go with your gut. At the end of the day you're the one who has to wear it and if you don't feel comfortable or good in something then it's not for you. Style is 100 per cent about having confidence, which comes from knowing who you are, and staying true to that. Just because something is fashionable or trendy doesn't mean that it fits for you and your style.

Happy thrifting!

Check out Buffy's personal style blog, Stripped and Buffed at <http://strippedandbuffed.blogspot.ca>



Photos courtesy of Natalie "Buffy" Aybars

My top five vintage stores in Vancouver (in no specific order):

- F As In Frank (2425 Main Street)
- Community Thrift & Vintage (41 West Cordova Street)
- Front and Company (3772 Main Street)
- Used House of Vintage (831 Granville Street)
- Mintage (1714 Commercial Drive)

Baby, it's cold outside: the puffy coat dilemma

By **Angela Espinoza**,
Arts Editor

To say I've always been a tad self-conscious is an understatement. To say Christmas time is my most favourite time of the year is also an understatement. I love the holidays, but unless you've got a sensual crooner following you around 24/7, the cold can be unbearable. Until last year, I always vied for the puffy coat for warmth, accepting it as a decent enough replacement for the crooner. However, for 10 years, I've absolutely hated puffy coats—that's a long time to wear something you hate.

The puffy coat is a unique specimen: it offers its wearer a reasonable amount of warmth, but

its most common design is that of cooked and uncooked marshmallows (save for the three years where I was a bright blue mini 'mallow of target practice). But I don't think I'm alone in saying one definitely still has to layer while wearing a puffy coat. It's winter. Of course you're layering, but I feel like the last outfit one should need to layer would be in a puffy coat. Otherwise, would you still be wearing something that makes you look like you grew three sizes that day?

Besides the puffy coat, it seems like the next two coats that signal it's wintertime are the red plaid winter coat and wool overcoats. Both offer roughly the same amount of warmth as a puffy coat, but with one

very important difference: you don't look horrible wearing them. The wool overcoat in particular is designed to flow with someone's figure; whether you're a man or a woman, the wool overcoat is arguably the best winter coat in terms of not feeling hypersensitive every time you go out (red flannel is a close second).

Despite my feelings though, I'm not going to pretend like a lot of people don't prefer the puffy coat, and I think I understand why. Puffy coats offer a nostalgia factor, which is mainly why I put up with wearing them for so long. Up until you're about 13, puffy coats are adorable on any wearer. When you're a kid, you're going to be running around a



lot, and the puffy coat offers plenty of cushion for the inevitable fall in what often is a mere half inch of snow. But the odds of you running around in a puffy coat during a snowball fight in your mid-20s are rather limited—especially since we barely get snow anymore.

Puffy coats have a time and a place, and I'm long over both of them. You're going to be self-conscious when the

extended puff of your arm keeps hitting the friend next to you, or when your penguin-like chest ends up being an unnecessary bib for a quick midnight bite. Unless you're someone who knows how to handle their unique shape, the puffy coat just offers multiple opportunities for embarrassment without the level of warmth one should expect. The puffy coat is simply not worth it.



Winter is coming: top five best things about post-semester sex

By **Viv Steele**,
Sex Correspondent

Dear Reader,

This is my last column of 2012. I'd like to first and foremost thank you for reading along with me so far. It's been a pleasure to write sexy stuff for you all, and I hope you've found my advice entertaining, if not informative. I welcome all feedback from you lovely readers! You can

ask me anything at sex@theotherpress.ca, as I hope to incorporate some questions and answers into *Between the Sheets* in 2013.

Now, onto the good stuff! You may have felt a bite to the air lately. It's getting cold. Not only that, it's getting dark earlier, and your schedules are getting chock full of exam prep and term papers. And due to this seasonal stress, you probably haven't felt too keen on getting sexy with your partner of choice. This isn't the best time for the delicate psyche of a college student, but I'm here to tell you it gets better. Those exams

will come and go, and soon you will experience several days of bliss, free of textbooks and group projects. So, keeping the end in sight and positive thoughts on your mind, here's my top five best things about sex when it starts to get chilly!

Morning sex. Turn off that alarm clock, because you've got some extra time! Getting a dopamine rush from an early morning orgasm can be just what you need to blast away those late-December doldrums. Sex first-thing can increase intimacy in a relationship, if you're comfortable braving morning breath to achieve that intimacy. If you're not keen on a pre-fuck trip to the bathroom to freshen up, keep a couple big glasses of water by the bed.

Sex in socks. Ahh, socks. The most underrated sexual accessory. Studies have

shown that having cold feet reduces the likelihood of achieving orgasm, and don't we all want to make that o-face on the regular? Warm up those puppies with the cheesiest socks you have. I promise it's sexy.

Athletic sex. So maybe you don't relish the idea of fucking under a giant duvet to keep your naked bodies from freezing to death. If you're not into the romantic, gazing-into-each-other's-eyes missionary-style sex that cozy bedding facilitates, then athletic sex, designed to keep you active (and warm!) is probably for you. Sex against the wall, sex in the shower, or sex in kneeling positions are all good options. Pick up a Kama Sutra guide for some advanced moves.

Touch, touch, touch! Winter is the best time for those hot 'n' heavy, close-up activities like

hot oil massages (or just the regular type). Cuddling is also sensual and warming, or maybe some sexy wrestling is more your deal. Take advantage of the cooler temperatures, because come summer, you'll be wanting to separate your sweaty selves.

Festive role-play. Maybe I'm alone here, but there's something sexy about Santa costumes. Okay, I'm definitely not alone, judging by the proliferation of such items at every single lingerie store this time of year. The spoils of the season can be used to spice up anyone's love life, from a romantic string of lights strung up by the bed, to a flirty and sexy red negligee with fluffy white trim. So ho, ho, ho, and happy fucking!

Opinions.

Fighting the loudness wars

Remastered CDs

By Steven Mulleady,
Contributor

Last weekend I was as happy as can be: I got the latest version of *The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway* on CD because my vinyl's grooves have worn out. You can imagine how much I know about this album when it comes to lyrics, vocals, and the overall concept—seeing how it's also a well-known concept album. Now, imagine my displeasure and overall grief when the opening track came on. It was awful. My ears hurt from what came out of my speakers: loud, wimpy sound. The overall punch and dynamic sound of the original LP was gone, and what penetrated my ear cavity was cold, uninteresting, digitally processed shit. The drums were too loud, overpowering the vocals on a large ratio,

and it almost sounded like the low end was deliberately turned up, at times clipping the dynamics. Not only was the sound of the instruments changed, but all of the original Enossification on certain vocals and instruments was removed.

This is a prime example of what a remastered CD shouldn't be. Not only is it heavily modified from the original in how it sounds, but it offers no improvements whatsoever and suffers from an ongoing trend in the music industry dubbed "The Loudness War." Basically, this war is the ongoing increase of peak levels in CD masters. Once the maximum level of a CD is reached, loudness can be increased still further through signal processing, such as dynamic range compression and equalization. This results in a louder sound, but at the cost of the dynamics

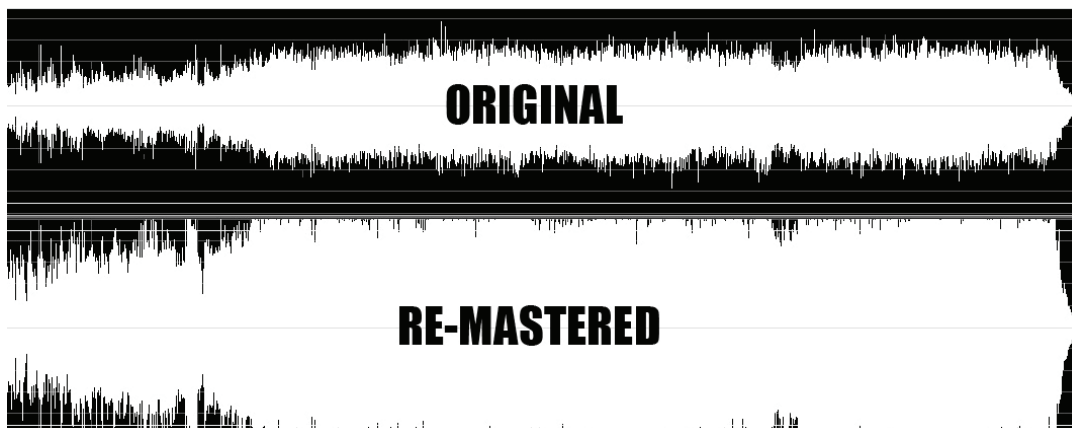


Photo illustration courtesy of Joel McCarthy

within the music due to the increased amounts of compression added to the mix. As Matt Mayfield, an audio engineer, states, "When there is no quiet, there can be no loud."

This war has culminated in one of the loudest records ever to be produced: *Death Magnetic* by Metallica, an album so loud and squashed by compression that no person could listen to the full album in one sitting and enjoy it. When you listen to a whole record of music this highly compressed, your ears are fatigued and you don't get full enjoyment out of it. And you simply

cannot turn up your volume to enjoy any punches that you would get out of key snare hits or vocal lines.

Not all remastered albums I've heard suffer from this conflict. Most have been created in the framework of the Loudness War, so it's important to know what you're getting into. But I'm not against a remastered album in principle. A good remastered album, or release if you will, should be practical and retain the spirit of the original as much as possible. Those in the collections of Kraftwerk, Marillion,

Siouxsie & the Banshees, The Rolling Stones (the SACD ABKCO ones), and Miles Davis are great. These remastered releases enhance the sound without reducing any of the original dynamics that were present on the original releases. However, these are merely anomalies for the music industry, and were released on independent labels or to limited scale, as they aren't really marketable or economically viable on a large scale.

And the music industry wonders why we download music.

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No winners with Ford ousted

Investigating the viewpoints

By Eric Wilkins,
Staff Writer

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford seems set to soon be ex-Toronto Mayor Rob Ford. Due to a ruling by Judge Charles Hackland on Ford's breaching of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act (MCIA), Ford will be forced from office on December 10.

Initially, I was firmly on one side of the argument. However, after further reflection, there are several sides to this, and all have relevance. To begin, there's the side of the ruling. Ford did something wrong. Back in March of 2010 when he was still a city councillor, Ford tried to raise funds for his private foundation that helps underprivileged kids play football. There was a slight issue with his admirable act though: Ford made use of official city letterhead. Fresh envelopes bearing gold seals and the City of Toronto's logo along with Ford's official title were sent out to solicit funds for his *private*, non-work-related foundation. \$3,150 towards the foundation was the result of his efforts. As bad as his abuse of city resources was though, the real trouble was yet to come. In August of the same year, Ford both discussed and voted on the incident at a city council meeting, despite being cautioned that he was possibly creating a conflict of interest. In March of 2012, a complaint arose



Toronto Mayor Rob Ford speaks to the press at city hall
Photo courtesy of Nathan Denette/CP

about Ford's actions, suggesting that he was in violation of the MCIA. Violating the MCIA requires the perpetrator to be deposed, and thus, Ford's on his way out.

Ford's a very public figure. He seems to crave the spotlight and keeps the public entertained with his endless outlandish

taking two public transit buses off their routes (and dropping off their passengers) to pick up his high school football team, and—my favourite—delivering this quote about cyclists: "What I compare bike lanes to is swimming with the sharks. Sooner or later you're going to get bitten...Roads are

city resources. What he was likely unaware of, however, was the penalty for doing so. And he got nailed for it. Good riddance.

But wait! Don't crucify the man yet. Keep in mind that he's essentially being expelled for collecting \$3,150 for *charity*. Yes, the means with which he achieved this goal were wrong, but has he really done anything horrible? Politicians have done far worse and managed to stay in office. Remember Gordon Campbell's DUI? I don't recall *him* being expelled from office. Or even Kyle Rae, a name Ford himself brought up, and his \$12,000 retirement bash using campaign funds? Ford's wrongdoing by comparison—and even without—was exceptionally tame.

Along with this, it should be noted that judges dismiss cases all the time. If there's a lack of evidence or it's simply not a case for the courts, judges can throw it out. Ford got removed for, relatively speaking, pocket change.

committed, keep in mind that there are many other openly illegal activities that go unpunished. A good example of this is 420: people openly smoke pot in a public place in full view of officers of the law. It's illegal to smoke pot, yet no one gets arrested. Why pick and choose which harmless crimes we turn a blind eye to?

The last view to consider here is that of the city and its people. While Ford is appealing the ruling, it's unlikely that he'll win. Therefore, there are two directions that can be taken from here. Either a new mayor is appointed, or a by-election is run. Neither is a good choice. Appointing a mayor is a gross disregard for democracy. It's bad enough that a judge decided to oust a man who received over 90,000 more votes than his nearest rival; choosing a new candidate for the job without consulting the public is even worse. And on the other hand, a by-election will cost approximately \$7 million. So the choices are either to do away with democracy or unnecessarily burn through a large sum of money that could be put to much better use.

Everything is wrong in this case. Ford is guilty of a breach of ethics, Judge Hackland punished a man for committing a minor offence, and the people of Toronto are going to get the short end of the stick one way or another. All over charity. What's the world coming to?

“

Keep in mind that he's essentially being expelled for collecting \$3,150 for charity. Yes, the means with which he achieved this goal were wrong, but has he really done anything horrible?

antics. Examples of these indiscretions include: being caught in possession of marijuana, being drunk at a hockey game and creating a scene (which he amusingly denied, then admitted and apologized for), reading and talking on a cell phone while driving,

built for buses, cars, and trucks, not for people on bikes. My heart bleeds for them when I hear someone gets killed, but it's their own fault at the end of the day." Ford knew full well he was in a conflict of interest when he voted against his having to pay back the money he raised through

Does the city really care about a few envelopes going out on their dime? After Ford checked up with the donors, it was even revealed that many didn't want repayment. No harm, no foul. As for those who say that, regardless of the damage or lack thereof, an obvious offence was

Stop the self-sabotage!

Get ahead by getting out of your head

By **Aidan Mouellic**, Contributor

Whether we want to acknowledge it or not, the world is made up of people who achieve what they set out to accomplish and those who don't. It might be making it through college, entering a respectable career, being a great athlete, having sex with who you want, or all of this; some people just seem to have an edge over those of us who are constantly on the fringe.

The truth is that Barack Obama, Steve Jobs, Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela, and Angelina Jolie are no different than you and I. They're people. They were all children once,

and they've all had challenges in their lives. The only reason they reached their positions in society is because they thought they could.

That seems like a pretty obvious statement, but a lot of people think it's ridiculous to put Obama and themselves on the same level. It's not. He's just a person whose power was appointed to him by other people. Perhaps the most important reason he's the President is that he thought he could be, and this intense belief led him to take the steps to make his belief become reality. This belief in one's self is perhaps the most crucial factor in achieving greatness, yet it's something many of us lack. Too often we tell ourselves that we can't do it, or that we're inferior. Oftentimes the only thing

that stops us is ourselves.

Psychiatrists often prescribe, along with medication, a course of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for people suffering with depression or anxiety. At its core, CBT addresses and tries to improve the thought processes that are often faulty in people suffering with mental illnesses. But CBT can benefit everyone because a lot of us who aren't mentally ill are sabotaging ourselves and our chances of success everyday. For a long time I told myself that I was a poor student and that I was poor in the sciences. When I started wondering what would happen if I believed in myself and worked hard, I actually started to think that I could do well in courses I'd never done well in before. Sure enough, I've improved.

CBT teaches its students that thoughts create feelings and that feelings create actions. We are our thoughts. As cliché as that sounds, it's true.

For the next two weeks, I challenge all readers to be extra self-aware, take notice of what you think, and even write it down if that helps. When you notice yourself thinking along the lines of "I won't register in that course that I will likely fail" or "She looks like a model and won't give me her number," stop yourself. Then turn those thoughts around and kick the crap out of them. Tell yourself that you'll try that course—it may be hard, but with work you can master it. Tell yourself that you're awesome, go up to the gorgeous girl, ask her if she believes in ninjas, make her smile, and ask

her out. The worst that could happen is that she'll say no.

We need to stop this self-sabotage and begin to view the world differently. Start viewing the people "up top" as people like us, not as some genetically superior race that holds their secret to success in a safe that only a cat burglar can crack. Our minds are tremendously powerful. We humans have done amazing things: cities, airplanes, and modern medicine have all been created by people. Yet we label these people "geniuses" or "innovators." Perhaps these people just believed in themselves enough to pursue their ideas until they saw the light of day. So I say start believing in yourself; it's the most important thing you can believe in.

Student Café: Quantum Café and Bistro

By **Gurneev Panesar**, Contributor



I love the interior design at Quantum Café and Bistro because it's modern and chic. It's a small place, but it's cuddly in its own way. The staff is friendly, the service is super, and they get a lot of customers. The coffee beans are from Brazil, and they're roasted in Chicago. This bistro is spectacular. I honestly felt like I was sitting downtown on Robson Street, simply because of the quality. This is also a fairly new spot!

Café Latte - \$2.95

Yum, the Café Latte felt like heaven! I love this because it's so rich and creamy. You get the rich taste of the coffee bean without it being too overpowering. It's super light and refreshing—definitely makes you go "ahh" on a chilly day. I felt like I was dipping my spoon into liquid chocolate because it has a shiny glaze to it.

Café Mocha - \$3.40

Oh my bloody god, it felt like Willy Wonka took over my mouth! I wanted to dive into this cup. The Café Mocha is unbelievably yummy, and it tastes like a chocolate mousse with tiramisu. It has the perfect ratio of chocolate

and coffee, yet the coffee still manages to pop out—like, "Hello there!" This is definitely my favourite drink at Quantum.

London Fog - \$3.65

This is an Earl Grey tea with a vanilla shot. This may look really inviting, but it tastes like medicine. It's supposed to be vanilla flavoured, but has the flavour of something my doctor prescribed to me when I was about seven-years-old. The texture is great—there's no froth, which is always good—and it's nice and light. The London Fog just didn't hit home for me.

Espresso - \$1.99

This is neither too overpowering, nor

is it light, and you can definitely feel the bean sizzle on your tongue. The Espresso's consistency is great, and it doesn't leave an aftertaste even though it delivers the distinct taste of the bean

Canadiano Misto - \$3.10

Lovely! Light, crisp, and clean—exactly what you want! The Canadiano Misto is roasted to perfection! The blend is amazing, with just the right amount of strength. The texture is perfect. It's just beautiful.

Hot Chocolate - \$3.45

Christmas came early! This tastes like melted marshmallows and Belgian chocolate, and it tastes so original. Super

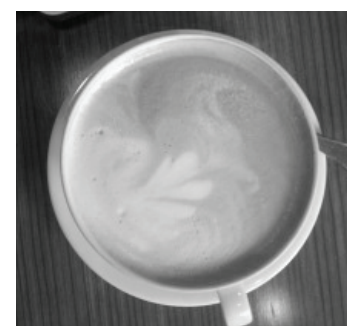


Photo courtesy of Gurneev Panesar

rich without being too sugary, which is a plus. The size of the mug is huge, and I didn't think I'd be able to finish it all! I've found a new favourite hot chocolate, and it's worth the money!

Quantum Café and Bistro is a great place to visit! I will definitely be back here for more—perhaps for the food next time. This has value for money, which is key for everything!



• joy to the world, • or ode to the Grinch?

Christmas traditions that should be eliminated

By **Elliot Chan**,
Contributor

The word “tradition” brings a shiver down my spine. How can intelligent people be subjected to these mindless habits, and worse, why must they pass them on from generation to generation? It’s time for us to kill some traditions and move on, before they do the same to us.

As the holiday season approaches, I brace myself for all the shameful acts we’ll do just for the sake of tradition. Of course, I don’t have to look far. All I have to do is open my curtains

and there they are: my neighbours’ Christmas lights hung from their rafters, rooflines, and porch railings to prove to the community that an upper middle class family resides within. Every block has an overzealous decorator, and while most houses are quietly conserving precious energy, these homeowners decide to add to the light pollution. Even with the new LED lights, the festive tradition is still a complete waste of energy. According to the Department of Energy, LED Christmas lights in an urban city still consume over 31,000 kilowatts (10 times less than incandescent) during the course of the holiday season. Considering that on a regular day a household only uses 16-20 kwh,

we must prioritize our First World privileges. The only people worse than those who put up Christmas lights early are those who are too lazy to take them down. We’ll speak again in February.

I’m not a tree hugger, but seeing a young, healthy evergreen amputated from the earth and set to slowly rot in a living room doesn’t seem right. “But fake, plastic Christmas trees don’t have the fresh smell,” you say. I really wish that was a legitimate argument, but it isn’t. It can’t be, not in this day and age when we slap someone over the head for not recycling. Stop being so stubborn and at least make an effort. That’s not to say artificial trees are any better. Producing plastic creates by-products that are extremely harmful to

the environment. These inauthentic trees leave a far more damaging carbon footprint than real ones. So dismiss the Christmas tree this year and take a sniff: “Ah... A fresh tradition.”

The generous act of giving is perhaps one of humanity’s most positive traits—surely that can’t be a bad tradition. It isn’t, but the fanatic desperation to find a gift is. There’s no such thing as a perfect gift. Eventually it’ll become garbage—broken down or shoved in the garage alongside the plastic tree. There are meaningful gifts, and then there are thoughtless gifts. Most of us can recognize one from the other, there’s no hiding it. The stress to find something meaningful turns generosity into unpleasant despair.

There’s no reason for the shopping mall to become a war zone. Change this tradition. I’m tired of receiving knick-knacks and coupons for 10 per cent off after a \$50 purchase. Share an experience with your loved ones. Take them out to dinner, go on a trip, and create a memory that doesn’t revolve around a stuffed animal or a box of chocolates.

It’s not my intention to ruin Christmas or the holiday season, but we must acknowledge that as the world changes, so must our traditions. If we’re going to preach about a better environment, a better community, and a better life, perhaps we should replace our white Christmas with a healthy green one.

Let’s keep Christmas

By **Lauren Paulsen**,
Contributor

It’s that time of year again! Lights are being strung up, trees are being decorated, and Santa’s getting ready to deliver presents to good little boys and girls. I love Christmas traditions. They fill my heart with nostalgia and warmth. As soon as those first lights are hung up in the neighbourhood, my Christmas spirit is awoken.

Did you know that covering the Christmas tree with lights dates back to the 18th century in Germany? They used candles back then—a fire

hazard, for sure—and it wasn’t until the mid-19th century that electric Christmas lights were introduced, making a far safer alternative. Over time, the lights started to decorate other places, including the outside of buildings, creating a festive atmosphere along streets. It’s not necessary to go out and buy tons of lights to decorate your yard; just a few simple strings will do. If you’re looking out for the environment, LED lights can be used to consume less energy. Buying the lights helps the economy, and using the energy efficient lights helps Mother Earth.

The Christmas tree is a wonderful tradition. The hanging

of decorations is a great thing to do with the family and a perfect way to get someone in the Christmas spirit. Even those who cannot sport a real tree in their home can still enjoy this tradition with a faux version. It’s a wonderful alternative for those who have allergies to fir trees, and using the same tree year after year saves a lot of money. You can buy the ornaments for the tree, or make some yourself. My family’s tree is filled with ornaments my brother and I made as children—beaded wreaths, candy canes, little angels, and more—plus many cute ornaments we’ve received as gifts over the years, such as milestone

anniversaries, or “Baby’s First Christmas.” Wonderful moments you won’t ever forget because you have treasures hanging from the tree to remind you.

And let’s not forget the presents we put under the tree. Ah, presents. Who doesn’t love getting a gift? The cute wrapping paper that hides what’s underneath, creating a mystery. At the cost of sounding cheesy, I believe that the reason for presents is not to receive, but to *give*. That’s the whole point of Christmas, isn’t it? It symbolizes the way Jesus lived his life: giving to others. What better way to celebrate his birthday? Even for those who aren’t Christians, the

thought behind it is still wonderful. And doesn’t it make us feel all warm and fuzzy inside, seeing someone’s eyes light up with delight as you hand them a gift? Finding the perfect gift doesn’t matter—it’s the feelings behind it that count. We’ve kept these wonderful traditions alive for centuries because we enjoy them, and they will stay for years to come because of the same reason. Think about it: traditions are traditions for a reason. These Christmas traditions are definitely here to stay for a long time—otherwise, we wouldn’t have kept them around for so long. Merry Christmas, everyone!

Sports.



: Grey Cup returns to T.O.

By **David Hollinshead**, Contributor

As every conspiracist had predicted, the Toronto Argonauts won the 100th Grey Cup at home, defeating the Calgary Stampeders 35–22. Even the 13-point difference was a generous deficit, considering how uncompetitive this game was. The game started in Calgary's favour, as Toronto quarterback Ricky Ray was intercepted on the first play by Calgary halfback Quincy Butler, but it wasn't long before Calgary revealed how unprepared they were. In an ensuing drive, quarterback Kevin Glenn—who replaced injured starter Drew Tate all year and carried Calgary to the final—fumbled the handoff to Canadian running back and New Westminster's own Jon Cornish, which was recovered by Toronto.

Toronto's dominance would begin as Argo's running back Chad Kackert set up an easy touchdown as Ricky Ray hit the league's Most Outstanding Player, Chad Owens, on a swing route and he

scored from five yards out. Glenn still could not find a rhythm as two plays later he threw an interception to rookie defensive back Pacino Horne who took it in for a touchdown. Calgary would then get a big return from the electric Larry Taylor, but could only amass a field goal, making it a 14–3 game. Ray would then find his favourite target going back to the days when he was an Edmonton Eskimo, hooking up with receiver Jason Barnes for a 62-yard completion, in which the Argos came away with a field goal.

Calgary would come away with a big play of its own with another veteran receiver stepping up. Glenn hit the bowling ball Nik Lewis, who took it 61 yards before he was stopped. Calgary looked to be gaining momentum before they were stopped on the goal line and were forced to kick another field goal. In the next drive, Ray dissected the defense, and after a circus catch by Dontrelle Inman at the one yard line, backup quarterback Jarious Jackson faked a quarterback sneak, instead throwing to Inman who got his touchdown, giving the

Argos a 24–6 lead at halftime—where we all got to watch Justin Bieber. I was there; I left my seat at halftime for multiple beer runs.

Calgary came out and was able to score yet another field goal, before Toronto answered with one of their own. Calgary would then be allowed another two points as Toronto punter Noel Prefontaine took a knee in the end zone, putting Calgary within two scores. Calgary would kick another field goal after Toronto's defensive back Ahmad Carroll was called on a deep pass interference call. Kackert would eventually put the game out of reach after two 15-yard penalties called on Calgary. He would break a huge 24-yard run, allowing Ray to hit Durie again for a seven yard score. Calgary would get their only touchdown of the game with 20 seconds left to play as backup Bo Levi Mitchell hit Maurice Price, but it was too little too late.

The Calgary team that showed up to Toronto was not the same team that defeated the BC Lions a week earlier, and it even shows in the play call.

Offensive coordinator Dave Dickenson called a brilliant game in Vancouver, and was praised for his aggressiveness that paid off big time. In Toronto, that's exactly what the Stampeders lacked. They tried way too hard to establish a running game with the Most Outstanding Canadian award-winner Cornish, handing the ball off in situations where you needed bigger chunks of yards than what a run would probably get you. Against BC they also went vertical in their passing, looking for the big play repeatedly as against the Argos, they took very few shots downfield and when they did, Glenn was inaccurate.

Most of their passing attempts seemed to be plays that would be eventually setting themselves up for a home run hitter like the Saskatchewan playoff game, but never branched off it, leaving the debate to whether Toronto did a great job shutting them down, or Calgary lost the game for themselves. Glenn was in his second attempt at a Grey Cup ring, playing in his first one after leading

his Winnipeg Blue Bombers to a Grey Cup game but was injured in the Western Final. Now, after having a chip on his shoulder all year, you would think that would have him fired up and playing at the top of his game. Instead he seemed rattled and in over his head as he finished 14 passes of 27 attempts for 222 yards with an interception. If the future GM for Ottawa was watching, that game alone could've potentially changed his mind about choosing him to be the starting quarterback.

Toronto traded for Ricky Ray for one reason: to win a Grey Cup. There was no way they could've predicted this. After being mediocre for years, the team placed second in the east, defeating the Edmonton Eskimos in the first round, the Montreal Alouettes in the East Final, then capturing this. Ray finished the game 18 passes of 30 attempts for 231 yards with two touchdowns and one interception. Finally, a Toronto sports team that doesn't suck.

Royals Roundup

By **Josh Martin**, Sports Editor

The men's basketball team had a successful weekend, defeating the Quest Kermodes on Friday (81–67) and the Capilano Blues on Saturday (87–74). Those two wins lift the Royals into third place in the standings with a 4–4 record and eight points in eight games. Their next game is on January 4 against the Langara Falcons at 8 p.m.

The women's basketball team split their games in half with a win against the Kermodes on Friday (65–58) and a loss to the Blues (60–55). They are currently sitting at second place in the standings with a 6–2 record and 12 points in eight games. Their next game will be against the Langara Falcons after the Christmas break on January 4 at 6 p.m.

Preying on Tebow

Christian QB learning the dangers of the Big Apple

By **Eric Wilkins**,
Staff Writer

You can't get through more than a month or two of football without hearing about Tim Tebow. It's just a fact. The guy has done nothing in New York, and yet here I am tapping away at my laptop with yet another article solely devoted to him. Love him or hate him, he's an influential figure. Who else can grab headlines while doing zip? Ryan Lindley can't even get a sniff. Who's that, you ask? Point proven.

So what miniscule thing has he done this time? Been photographed with an ample-bosomed female? Been traded? Single-handedly come up

with a solution for world peace? No. Instead, it's on his unbelievably calm and composed demeanour throughout his ordeal as the Jets backup quarterback.

Mark Sanchez is a terrible quarterback. He's got 2,339 yards through the air with 12 touchdowns, 10 picks, and a miserable 55.4 completion percentage. And the Jets are 4-7. Bravo, Sanchez. Bravo. With such a terrible signal-caller, you'd figure Rex Ryan wouldn't mind having a look at his other options. Tim Tebow, perhaps? You know, that guy who led the Broncos on an improbable playoff run last season? But no. Instead, through some inexplicable continuous brain fart, Ryan has ignored his saviour on the bench and stuck with one of the worst QB's in the league.

It really makes you wonder why the organization ever brought

Tebow in. Was it just to sell jerseys? It's sure looking like it. We all know that they said Sanchez was going to be the starter, but when did they decide to eternally etch his name at number one on the depth chart? It seems like no matter what Sanchez does, he gets to keep the starting gig. There have been plenty of occasions this season where the Jets are well out of the game, but Sanchez has always stayed in. I would love for someone to explain this one to me. If Sanchez is your franchise QB, what is he doing playing in garbage time? And if he isn't your guy, why not give another fellow a shot? And no, I'm not talking about the Thanksgiving game against the Patriots; Tebow had broken ribs and he shouldn't even have been dressed. It's just another testament to his character

though that he wanted to be there for his team, even in his condition, if they desperately needed him to play.

In keeping with that last line, Tebow has said, and done, all the right things this year. He's never questioned his position as number two on the depth chart, he's never spoken out against Ryan for his baffling crashed train of thought, and he's been a supportive teammate in every situation. My hunch is that either the top brass has told Ryan he has to start Sanchez (because of the money tied up in him), or Ryan never wanted Tebow / isn't a fan of his, and doesn't want to give him a shot. It's probably a combination of the two. Ryan knows that Tebow can't possibly do any worse than Sanchez. As a result of this, playing Tebow would immediately be viewed by the fans as a step

in the right direction, and thus, make it impossible for Sanchez to ever start again.

There's no doubting the fact that Tebow would be able to do something with the Jets offense if given the keys. Shonn Greene is a serviceable, if unspectacular, running back, and Jeremy Kerley, Stephen Hill, and Dustin Keller form an adequate receiving corps. If one recalls, Denver's wideouts weren't considered anything special when Tebow led them past Pittsburgh, but they got the job done. Hill is in a similar mold as Demaryius Thomas; Tebow could do some damage. This is all a moot point though. Tebow is never going to see the field as the starter, and the club will continue to employ him solely for fake punts and other gadget plays. Settle in for another losing season, Jets fans.

Our balls are bigger

CFL vs. NFL debate is no debate

By **Eric Wilkins**,
Staff Writer

I'm tired of hearing people go on and on about how vastly superior the NFL is to the CFL. I'm tired of hearing about how the worst NFL team could beat the best CFL team easily. It makes me want to make like that delightful Facebook page and high-five them. In the face. With a chair. Honestly, think this one through. Saying that the Kansas City Chiefs could beat the Toronto Argonauts is crazy talk. First of all, the Chiefs can't even beat a pee-wee football team. Secondly, if no one noticed, the two leagues don't play with the same rules. The CFL has a bigger field, one

extra man, one fewer down, puts multiple receivers into motion before the snap, has the field goal posts at the front of the endzone instead of the back, doesn't have fair catches, and a dozen other differences. "Derrrr, but it's still football, right?" Yes, both leagues play football,

needs to be mobile. If you can't move in the CFL, you're not going to make it. And before someone makes a crack about Anthony Calvillo, keep in mind that he had an 8.2 yards per rush average this season. Staying with the QB theme, an NFL pivot can get away with

Running backs from the two leagues also differ. The NFL is a running league. Backs need to be able to pound the ball time and time again and grind out a few yards on the ground. The successful ones generally tend to be tough bruisers. The CFL, on the other hand, is a

many NFL backs seem completely incapable of. With it now firmly established that the two leagues are different, one should begin to realize that a game between the two is impossible, and thus, neither league can be deemed superior. Of course there's more money in the NFL and a far larger pool of talent, which leads one to believe that the NFL's athletes are better, but the two simply aren't comparable. How would one even set up a game between the two leagues? Would it be NFL rules or CFL rules? On an NFL field or a CFL field? With our awesome football with two stripes or with their lame brown pigskin? I honestly don't care which league people prefer, but please stop with the uninformed comparisons.

“

Saying that the Kansas City Chiefs could beat the Toronto Argonauts is crazy talk. First of all, the Chiefs can't even beat a pee-wee football team.

but they're not playing the same game. CFL players need to have different skill sets than their NFL counterparts. For example, while an NFL quarterback just needs to be able to sit in the pocket and have an arm, a CFL quarterback

having an average to below average arm, but a CFL signal caller can't. With the wider field, throwing that cross-field out route becomes that much more dangerous. A lame-duck toss is just asking for the defensive back to pick it off.

passing league. Our ball-carriers don't need to be all brawn. There's more space to take a handoff and bounce it to the outside. They also don't (usually) see as many carries. CFL running backs also need to be effective receivers, something

War of the Words: should professional athletes be allowed to tweet?

One idiot shouldn't ruin it for everyone

By Josh Martin,
Sports Editor

Out of thousands of athletes in professional sporting leagues, you're bound to get a handful of idiots. It's inevitable. When you look back to any of your elementary school classes, was the whole class well-behaved? Absolutely not. There were little shits throwing their pencils across the room, picking their noses and eating it, and giving their teachers a living hell. But these students were in the minority from what I remember; the rest of the bunch were orderly and keen in doing whatever they were told. Fast forward many years down the road to the "lucky" kids who made it big. Has anything changed? I'd like to assume so, but sadly these now "adults" are still the same old kids who were picking



their noses and eating it, but bigger, richer, and more powerful, with things like Facebook and Twitter.

Oh yes, all of these athletes should be aware of the cheesy, yet lovable one-liner from Ben Parker in *Spiderman*: "With great power, comes great responsibility." Sadly, we get ridiculous tweets from athletes such as the most recent one from Nik Lewis of the Calgary Stampeders, "I just bought OJ's gloves on eBay. Now all I need is a white girl named Nicole #maybealittletofar." It didn't really help his case with the fact that he had

a spelling mistake in his hashtag. Nonetheless this player was fined for his comments and played in the Grey Cup Final against the Toronto Argonauts.

BC Lions Khalif Mitchell was also subject to an unprofessional tweet earlier in the season and was fined and suspended by his team after he wrote in a response to which candidate he thought was the winner for the US presidential debate, "Both of them hide money with the Chinks."

But these examples are only a small portion of the rest of the athletes

in the sporting world, a.k.a the idiots of the class. So why should the rest of the class get punished for the idiots' mistakes? There are so many athletes out there who use the social media devices respectfully and can still have fun with it. Paul Bissonnette of the Phoenix Coyotes in the NHL has become famous because of his personality through his tweets. The fact that a fourth line player in the NHL can become so popular to the public—that usually idolizes the Sidney Crosby's of the league—is a great progression in today's game. Reading

his tweets, you almost feel like you know him, so when you watch Bissonnette play in games with the Coyotes you find yourself rooting for him the entire time.

Ryan Kesler, Kevin Bieksa, and Trevor Linden of the Vancouver Canucks all have Twitter as well and when they tweet back and forth between each other, making fun of one another, it's pure entertainment behind the scenes conversations that you usually wouldn't get to experience. That element of social media gives the public more of a three dimensional view into the world of being an athlete, which a lot of us want to be a part of.

So why is the good always overlooked by the bad? Why must we suffer because of those nose picker kids who don't know any better? There's bound to be those kinds of people wherever you go. Let's not let them spoil it for the others.

Hash[Tag] of idiocy

By Eric Wilkins,
Staff Writer

Twitter is the bane of intelligence. It provides an outlet for all of those things that are extremely offensive or just exceptionally unimportant. Athletes, in particular, seem to have a penchant for making use of the social media site in such an immature manner, and the sports leagues that these athletes play in should take note.

I can't remember a time when a player has ever made an overwhelmingly positive tweet—something that

makes you just stop and smile. Similarly, no tweet comes to mind that provoked deep philosophical thoughts. Now, while it's possible I'm just developing Alzheimer's early, the reason for my inability to recall an intelligent tweet by an athlete is because it simply doesn't happen. Alright, maybe not never, but a few good ideas in a sea of idiocy generally tend to sink to the bottom without so much as a ripple. It never ceases to amaze me how, especially in a league such as the NFL where every player has a college education, someone can manage to post such incredible drivel. You'd think the supposed

media coaching that goes on by sports teams would be more than enough for these guys to figure it out, but apparently not.

No one needs to read, "With so many Africans in Greece..At least the West Nile mosquitoes will eat homemade food!!!" Voula Papachristou, a Greek track athlete, made that "joke" about African immigrants shortly before the Olympics. She was later removed from the team. Coming closer to home were the recent tweets by Khalif Mitchell and Nik Lewis that were just as inappropriate. Of course, not all tweets are racist or offensive. Some just exhibit the fact that many athletes simply

don't stop to think about what they're saying. Case in point, Steve Johnson's tweet after dropping a pass in overtime that would have won the game: "I PRAISE YOU 24/7!!!!!! AND THIS HOW YOU DO ME!!!!!! YOU EXPECT ME TO LEARN FROM THIS??? HOW????!! ILL NEVER FORGET THIS!! EVER!!! THX THO..." Blaming God? Really makes you wonder why so many football players bother to wear helmets.

Leagues need to realize that these tweets hurt their public appearance and, as such, should be stopped. Players represent the leagues they belong to, and if people

see poorly thought-out posts by the players, they'll project that image onto the league. An in-season ban (or even a full ban from Twitter entirely) would be a wise move. The amount of negative publicity that Twitter can create should make this one a no-brainer. The positives are almost non-existent. As noted before, intellectual tweets are a rare thing, and even when one does occur, it almost never makes any noise. Twitter allows players to be entertainers and express their personality, but leagues have to evaluate whether they really want those personalities on display.

Atheist coalition backs the snood

Popular hybrid scarf piece endorsed by Richard Dawkins

By Dylan Hackett,
News Editor

Last week, by a worldwide press release, the Humanists for Uncut Humanity announced their unfettered endorsement for the snood, an increasingly popular hybrid renowned for distancing wearers from problems surrounding scarf knots that the HUH claims “nobody can tie properly anyway,” with its simple crocheted circumference. The group heralds the fashion piece as “a woolly plight against the aesthetic of genital mutilation and the pious pragmatism that



Photo illustration by Joel McCarthy

shields it from rational discussion.”

The press release announced “the snood is an embodiment of our stance against the culturally normalized child abuse known to many as circumcision, but deemed by us as genital mutilation. We encourage our supporters to wear the snood this winter season in solidarity against the practice we seek to cease worldwide. Wear the

snood up or down—it is ready to adjust to whichever position the situation requires.”

Evolutionary biologist, author, and outspoken atheist Richard Dawkins has been witnessed wearing a beige snood around London and posted a picture through his Twitter account concurrent with the HUH press release. The 71-year-old academic posted on his Twitter page “@HUH reppin’ the #snood hard #topman #swag pic.twitter.com/666rd8da9k”.

The announcement was deemed by many in the press as unsettlingly timely, given the HUH’s “Adopt-an-Anteater” drive launched last November—an effort to provide funding for an anteater shelter in

northern Brazil. The long snouted mammal was also adopted as the group’s official mascot at the 2012 Global Atheists Convention, appearing onstage to rally conference attendees behind the HUH’s agenda.

The Creator’s Coalition for Circumcision, a union of Jewish, Muslim, and Christian supporters advocated for infant circumcision and critiqued the backing of the snood in a rebutting press release distributed last Friday.

“Circumcision is a practice dating back as far as Hebrew times and is practiced worldwide as a sanitary precaution for infant health and as a WHO recommended procedure to reducing HIV infection rates. The

snood’s resemblance to an uncircumcised penis is negligible and its fervent endorsement by Richard Dawkins and his co-thinkers flouts a respected and long-standing tradition amongst religious and secular communities worldwide. The [HUH]’s stigmatization of the garment causes harm to these cherished communities,” the release claimed.

In an ensuing battle on Twitter late Friday afternoon, the HUH was quick to point out the CCC’s own scandal in the mid-’90s where the group was found to have paid the producers of popular Christian family drama, *7th Heaven*, to have character Simon Camden don a mushroom cut, a staple of mid-’90s hairstyles.

First World problems: a growing threat to global security

United Nations Security Council meet to discuss the issue

By Keating Smith,
Chief Procrastinating Correspondent

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) met last week in New York to discuss the growing threat of First World problems in the northern regions of the world. With the United States, France, and Great Britain making up three of the five permanent members of the UNSC, the countries expressed to the assembly that First World problems are a growing threat, not only to the security of their respective nations, but to

those in other developed countries. Several other wealthy countries in Europe including Norway, Switzerland, and Finland, as well as Canada and Australia were also on the UNSC’s list of countries to take attentiveness to the new and growing global problem.

“The assassination of Osama bin Laden has greatly reduced the issue of global terrorism,” said Susan Rice, US ambassador to the UN, in a statement to the international media. “And while the sinister consequences of Arab spring have generated a civil war in Syria and created continuous political instability in Egypt, we cannot ignore the problems of the First World like we have been.”

The words come from Rice and several of her colleagues after a growing number of hashtags typically coined as “#firstworldproblems” have been reported plaguing the social media world in recent months. These First World problems range from someone burning their tongue after drinking hot coffee purchased from a corporate restaurant to having an intermittent Wi-Fi connection in a very large suburban house.

Paralleling the growing amount of First World problem hashtags in the world of social media are several videos recently posted on YouTube, particularly *Africa for Norway*, which is a video depicting Africans unanimously

coming together to help people in Norway by donating their heaters to the extremely cold Scandinavian country. “I’m basically heading up a team that’s getting Africans together in this time of need for Norway [by] helping them out,” says Breezy V, an African rapper and spokesperson for the video. “A lot of people aren’t aware of what is going on there right now. It’s just as bad as poverty if you ask me.

“People don’t ignore starving people, so why should we ignore cold people? Frost bite kills people too,” Breezy proclaims at the beginning of the video. With Norway having some of the largest offshore oil deposits in the world and one of Europe’s highest GDP’s,

Norwegians historically struggle to keep warm during the winter months. Breezy concludes his speech by saying “We need to make a difference in Norway by collecting our radiators and shipping them off [to] spread some light, spread some warmth, and spread some smiles.”

The UNSC is set to meet before the holiday season in a general assembly to discuss the potential threats First World problems could pose in the western world in the new year. Fresh off his newly reelected term, U.S. president Barack Obama is speculated to seat the assembly’s chair.

With files from Daily Dingdong politics.

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